

PUBLIC STATEMENT OF ART JOHNSTON

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MR. JOHNSTON: My name is Art Johnston. I'm a retired mechanical engineer.

In 1948, I wrote my thesis on the known opinions of nuclear power plants at that time before many of you were born.

I worked at the nuclear rocket test site here in Nevada for six years. So I have a feel for nuclear radiation and the control of it.

Let's look at what's going on in the world, which is really the heart of what we're talking about. We have got a world with six billion people in it, and it's growing larger. And the power requirements of these people is tremendous.

There's no known practical economical source of energy existing except by the burning of coal, gas, oil, hydroelectric plants, or nuclear plants. And the burning of this coal, gas and oil is polluting our planet. It's caused premature death of millions of people. And these pollutants are a big factor in polluting the rivers and oceans and the destruction of hundreds of forms of aquatic life.

So why do we continue to burn these hydrocarbons? I really don't know. But I know that some of you out here with ulterior motives do know.

2... [We have proven nuclear plants and hydroelectric plants can produce vast amounts of pollution free energy. The approximate 100 nuclear plants here in the United States have been most successful without a serious known accident.

And do not mention Three Mile Island. The only guy that got hurt there was the guy that had a heart attack because the news media scared the hell out of him.]

1 [For the past 50 years I have followed the progress of the concept of nuclear power plants and read the pros and cons. As yet I do not remember of a single concept that was presented during the design, construction and use of these plants that has not been proven wrong.

Generally arguments against the use of nuclear plants have been nebulous, imagined, unscientific, inflammatory, and they are scare tactics. And it is my opinion that we can operate nuclear plants safely. We can store nuclear products at Yucca Mountain. And we can transport these products wherever we want to safely.]

The chance of a meteorite hitting this earth and destroying it are about as great as the things that you imagine that could happen. You don't go to a stock broker to figure out how and ask him how to store

products at Yucca Mountain. You go to specialists in the field, the experts.

I'm begging you, if you have any semblance of being open-minded on this subject, go to independent specialists and ask questions. Do not blindly accept what I'm saying or unthinkingly accept the pros and cons presented here today.

When someone tells you something, it should be backed up by good scientific research and logic. Go to independent experts in the field of nuclear science. Ask a university physicist, nuclear engineer, independent geologists, and get answers from people who are not pressured or paid by outside biased forces, people involved with money or emotions. These are the things that control a lot of people's feelings.

The world needs a long-range goal for our planet that is reachable with known technology. The world population of two to three billion people would be a good number. Clean sources of energy and use of electric cars and electric trains.

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[We need people to appreciate and love this planet, and I don't understand why some of you are trying to force our society to continue to pollute this planet by forcing the continued use of fossil fuels. Hydroelectric and nuclear power are our only as yet known sources of this needed power.

What are you thinking about? Are you trying to force the United States to become a second rate nation? As a retired engineer, it seems to me some of you are not thinking or you have ulterior motives.]

Decisions must be made on the best scientific knowledge available, not what you read in the newspaper by some biased group. You cannot run a society on emotions. Thank you.